



NEWS FROM THE FIRST DISTRICT

Dear Friends,

Friday morning, I very reluctantly voted 'yes' on the bipartisan, long-term budget agreement.

House Republicans' long and damaging budget process has revealed a sad truth – Washington Republicans do not know how to govern. By voting no on House Republicans' wholly inadequate short-term funding bills, Democrats were ultimately successful in addressing the critical middle class American priorities that Congressional Republicans for months had used as pawns to forward their partisan agenda.

These budgeting decisions are made even more difficult now that Congressional Republicans have increased the debt by at least \$1.5 trillion to give tax breaks to the richest. This compromise agreement does not include everything it should. For example, although the bill contained desperately needed funding to combat the deadly opioid epidemic that is devastating New Hampshire communities, more funding is needed. But this bill does provide critical funding for veterans, for children and seniors, for disaster relief, for infrastructure, and for college affordability, among other priorities.

This bill did not address the plight of the Dreamers, young people who came to this country as children. Donald Trump manufactured a crisis by deciding to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. They are our neighbors, classmates, friends, and family. They are veterans and servicemembers. They are college students and scientists conducting cutting-edge research. And now they are afraid because this administration is threatening to deport them.

This Republican Congress must do what is right. We must allow these young people to stay. Twice in the last month, two different bipartisan groups of Senators brought compromise legislation to the President. And each time, he rejected it, despite prior pledges that Dreamers would have "nothing to worry about." Speaker Ryan has said he won't put a bill on the floor without the President's approval. This is the people's house, not Donald Trump's, and we have one simple request: do the right thing and allow the American people a vote. It sickens me that House leadership is denying Members of Congress from both parties a vote on the floor because they know it will pass. I will keep demanding action to protect these innocent people.

Calling out the lack of leadership on the opioid crisis from the White House

Last week, several Republicans expressed concern that Senior Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway has been sidelining health policy experts and the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) while she's been leading the White House response to the crisis. This administration's response to the crisis has been horrible. It is unacceptable that a pollster is leading the White House's efforts to combat the opioid epidemic and ignoring important recommendations from actual health policy experts. ONDCP, which provides grants to states and leads the federal response for the opioid crisis, has not had a permanent director since Donald Trump took office. In a harmful and dangerous decision, the administration is now trying to eliminate the office. ONDCP needs a director with experience and real qualifications in this field. Last week, the White House announced that it will appoint Jim Carroll, a former executive at Ford Motor Company, as the Acting ONDCP Director.

Ending secret taxpayer-funded settlements for sexual harassment in Congress

Last week, the House took an important step forward in creating a safer Congressional workplace by addressing the institutional failures that have fostered an unacceptable culture of sexual harassment in Congress. This legislation will eliminate the practice of issuing taxpayer-funded settlements and concealing them from the public, practices which perpetuate harassment and abuse. Across the country, we are engaging in a long-overdue conversation about sexual harassment and assault, and I am pleased that the House has acted in a bipartisan fashion to improve how Congress handles sexual harassment claims.

Passing a bipartisan bill to protect Social Security beneficiaries

Two weeks ago, I announced my support for bipartisan legislation to improve Social Security's representative payee program, which helps nearly 8 million beneficiaries manage their benefits. The representative payee program supports Social Security beneficiaries who need assistance, including children and people with conditions that impact their ability to manage their benefits. Last Monday, the House passed this bill, the Strengthening Protections for Social Security Beneficiaries Act of 2017. This bipartisan legislation creates new safeguards in the representative payee program to protect beneficiaries against fraud.

Closing thoughts

Tomorrow, I expect the House will try to pass H.R. 620, which will undermine the civil rights of people with disabilities. This bill would place the burden of complying with the Americans with Disability Act on the victims of discrimination rather than the entities that are obligated to comply. Passage of this bill is just one more attack by House Republicans on people with disabilities after they tried to take away their health care and eliminate the medical expense deduction. I will continue to stand against these misguided policies.

Best Wishes,

Carol Shea-Porter

Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Last Week's Press Releases

- [Shea-Porter, Shaheen, and Hassan Announce \\$218,000 Federal Grant for New Hampshire's Sea Grant Program](#)
- [Shea-Porter Statement on Bipartisan Budget Act](#)
- [ICYMI: Shea-Porter, 135 Members of Congress Urge Support of COPS Office in FY2019 Budget](#)
- [House Passes Shea-Porter Cosponsored Legislation to Address Sexual Harassment in Congress](#)

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